



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
56TH FIGHTER WING (AETC)
LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA 85309-1629

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MEMORANDUM FOR LUKE AIR FORCE BASE AND TENANT UNITS

FROM: 56 FW/CC

SUBJECT: Guidance Memorandum on Mexico Travel Limitations Update

This Guidance Memorandum implements Mexico travel limitations. **Compliance with this memorandum is mandatory and is effective immediately.** To the extent its directions are inconsistent with other Air Force publications; the information herein prevails, in accordance with AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/gcss-af61a/afirms/afirms/>.

1. The welfare and safety of our personnel are my top priorities. This travel limitations update adds the states of Guerrero, Jalisco, San Luis Potosi, and Zacatecas to the off-limits states (see map) and discourages travel to Acapulco in Guerrero State until such time that the risk returns to an acceptable level.

2. **General Situation.** Narco-terrorism and drug-related criminal activity continues to escalate along the U.S.-Mexico border and central states. The majority of attacks thus far have been aimed at members of rival drug trafficking organizations, political representatives, Mexican police forces, and criminal justice officials. But that doesn't mean U.S. citizens are risk free. Two civilian attired US Immigrations and Customs Enforcement ICE Agents were attacked about 100 miles from Mexico City. One agent was killed and one was in serious condition

a. Since 2006, the Mexican government has engaged in an extensive effort to combat transnational criminal organizations (TCOs). The TCOs, meanwhile, have been engaged in a vicious struggle to control drug trafficking routes and other criminal activity. According to Government of Mexico figures, 34,612 people have been killed in narcotics-related violence in Mexico since December 2006. More than 15,000 narcotics-related homicides occurred in 2010, an increase of almost two-thirds compared to 2009.

b. Although there is no specific threat directed against Americans or U.S. service members, foreign visitors and residents, including Americans, have been among the victims of homicides and kidnappings. TCOs, meanwhile, engage in a wide-range of criminal activities that can directly impact U.S. citizens, including kidnapping, armed car-jacking, and extortion that can directly impact U.S. citizens. The number of U.S. citizens reported to the Department of State as murdered in Mexico increased from 35 in 2007 to 111 in 2010.

c. The Mexican government has deployed federal police and military personnel throughout the country as part of its efforts to combat the TCOs. U.S. citizens traveling on Mexican roads and highways may encounter government checkpoints, which are often staffed by military personnel. You are advised to cooperate with personnel at government checkpoints and mobile military patrols. TCOs have erected their own unauthorized checkpoints, and killed or abducted motorists who have failed to stop at them.

d. You should be especially aware of safety and security concerns when visiting the northern border states of Northern Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas. Much of the country's narcotics-related violence has occurred in the border region. More than a third of all U.S. citizens killed in Mexico in 2010 whose deaths were reported to the U.S. government were killed in the border cities of Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana. Narcotics-related homicide rates in the border states of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas have increased dramatically in the past two years.

Off Limits Mexican States



3. Due to the ongoing violence along the U.S.-Mexico border, the following travel limitation applies to all non-official (leave or personal) travel for active duty, Guard and Reserve component personnel in Title 10 status, students, recruiters, and tenant unit personnel attached to Luke Air Force. All non-official travel is prohibited until further notice to the States of: Chihuahua, Coahuila, Durango, Jalisco, Michoacan, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa,

Tamaulipas, and Zacatas; and the Mexican cities of Acuna, Agua Prieta, Las Palomas, Laredo, Matamoros, Mexicali, Monterrey, Naco, Nogales, Nuevo, Tijuana, Piedras Negras, Reynosa, Sasabe, and Sonoyta. Additionally, non-official ground travel within 50 statute miles of the U.S.-Mexico border for the states of Baja California, North and South and Sonora is prohibited. This limitation does not apply to foreign students. Dependents, DoD contractors, and DoD civilians are encouraged to abide by the travel restrictions imposed by the DoS.

4. Non-official travel by air or cruises to Mexican States and cities other than those previously identified is authorized with the approval of the first O-6 in the member's chain of command. Should the commander approve travel to Acapulco, the member should be directed to remain in the resort area or remain with the official cruise on-shore event.

a. The member, commander and first O-6 will review and sign the member's Force Protection Personal Travel Plan (template available through the unit Antiterrorism Officer or Representative). Commanders must verify the member has current Force Protection training, the members understands the risk, and if SCI-indoctrinated, the member must report travel to the Special Security Officer. AFOSI will provide periodic situation updates at wing staff meeting so commanders can ensure members understand the risks. Members are responsible for complying with the Force Protection Personal Travel Plan.

b. Should DoD civilians, contractors, military family members, including Guard members in Title 32 status, are strongly discouraged against personal travel to the areas of Mexico listed above. These personnel who choose to non-official travel against the advisement of the 56 FW/CC shall be offered assistance to complete a Force Protection Travel Plan by the host unit. The Antiterrorism Officer or Representative of the sponsoring unit can assist with the development of a Force Protection Personal Travel Plan.


c. For approved travel, commanders will ensure the 56th Fighter Wing Command Post is notified when personnel depart the local area for Mexico, are scheduled to return, of any changes to travel plans, and when personnel arrive back in the local area.

5. Travel for mission essential official travel purposes may be approved to the travel restricted areas by the 56 FW/CC. This applies to DoD civilians, DoD dependents, all other members of the Reserve components on Title 10 orders and DoD contractors (as long as it does not violate any terms of the contract). Additionally, country and theater clearance is required for all official travel to Mexico. The name and grade of the approving authority and justification for travel shall be entered under the itinerary tab, theater required information field, of the aircraft and personnel automated clearance system (APACS) clearance request. Disapproval or absence of approval by any clearance-granting authority constitutes denial of authority to enter the restricted areas. Lead time for personnel clearance requests is 14 days.

6. No exceptions will be granted for those States and cities identified in paragraph 3. Only I may grant exceptions for ground travel to or through the locations identified in paragraph 3, and will only do so for emergency non-official and official travel on a limited, case-by-case basis.

7. This limitation supersedes previous guidance, same subject, dated 29 Jun 10.

8. My POC is Mr. Jonathan Hertwig, 56 FW/FP, DSN 896-6331.


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Commander